

**Education Hours required by
Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine**

Acupuncture Program

The minimum length of the professional acupuncture curriculum must be at least three academic years (a minimum of 105 semester credits or 1905 hours). This must be composed of at least:

- 47 semester credits (705 hours) in Oriental medical theory, diagnosis and treatment techniques in acupuncture and related studies,
- 22 semester credits (660 hours) in clinical training, and
- 30 semester credits (450 hours) in biomedical clinical sciences.
- 6 semester credits (90 hours) in counseling, communication, ethics and practice management.

Acupuncture and Herbal Program

The minimum length of the professional Oriental medicine curriculum must be at least four academic years (a minimum of 146 semester credits or 2625 hours). This must be composed of at least:

- 47 semester credits (705 hours) in Oriental medical theory, diagnosis and treatment techniques in acupuncture and related studies,
- 30 semester credits (450 hours) in didactic Oriental herbal studies,
- 29 semester credits (870 hours) in integrated acupuncture and herbal clinical training,
- 34 semester credits (510 hours) in biomedical clinical sciences.
- 6 semester credits (90 hours) in counseling, communication, ethics and practice management.

Twelve core curriculum areas are specified. Three of these have curriculum that are specific to Biomedical Science. They are:

1. Diagnostic Skills

- History Taking/Charting
- Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine: Methods: Observation/Wang, Audio-Olfaction/Wen, Inquiry/Wen, Palpation/qie, Differential diagnosis
- *Biomedical: Measuring and recording vital signs, i.e., respiratory rate, pulse rate, temperature and blood pressure*
- *Referrals: Recognition of symptoms requiring referrals, including infectious disease.*

2. Treatment Planning in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

- Methods and systems for planning, carrying out and evaluating a treatment
- Prognosis
- Contraindications of treatment
- *Making appropriate referrals*

- *Consideration of special factors or symptoms indicating: potential for increased risk to the patient (e.g., immune compromised patient, diabetic patient), the need to modify standard therapeutic approach (e.g., infants and children, pregnancy), and apparently benign presentations that may have a more serious cause (hypertension, headaches).*

3. Biomedical Clinical Sciences

- Relevant basic sciences that are directed toward attaining the biomedical clinical competencies
- Biomedical and clinical concepts and terms
- Human anatomy and physiology
- Pathology and the biomedical disease model
- The nature of the biomedical clinical process including history taking, diagnosis, treatment and follow-up
- The clinical relevance of laboratory and diagnostic tests and procedures as well as biomedical physical examination findings
- Infectious diseases, sterilization procedures, needle handling and disposal, and other issues relevant to blood borne and surface pathogens
- Biomedical pharmacology including relevant aspects of potential medication, herb and nutritional supplement interactions, contraindications and side effects and how to access this information
- The basis and need for referral and/or consultation
- The range of biomedical referral resources and the modalities they employ

Source: ACAOM Accreditation Manual

http://www.acaom.org/documents/accreditation_manual_712.pdf